

the head-master (Mr. W. D. Bean), whose statement of the position should have satisfied even the most ardent supporter of the suggested plan. Mr. Bean subsequently issued a circular to the parents, asking them to vote against the proposal and gave a number of reasons. The circular stated that already there were at least sixteen subjects to be taught, and with that number the time at the teachers' disposal was far too short. The time taken up (9 a.m. to 9.30 a.m.) would have to be made up after 3 p.m. The discipline would probably suffer; those who did not attend would be playing, and if all attended the classes would be so large (about 100 in each class) that it would tax even a trained teacher to keep order, and ministers were not trained teachers. There was no need for moral teaching further than what was already given. Morality was the keynote of their teaching, and the school readers and journals were full of lessons bearing on morals. All the teachers in the school were in opposition to the proposal, and without the sympathy and co-operation of the teachers the effort of the ministers would be of little value. Religious instruction might give rise to comparisons and feeling, as a line would be drawn between those who did and those who did not attend. The ministers already had the chances of taking classes before or after school hours, or on Saturdays and Sundays; and, finally, the present system of education had worked exceedingly well, and should be left alone.

The four ministers stationed at Kaiapoi—the Revs. J. Holland, T. Trestrail, J. S. Reid, and W. L. Heaven—then issued a circular to parents expressing their wish to give religious instruction on one morning of the week for one half-hour and asking for a reply as to whether they favored the proposal. In reply to Mr. Bean's contentions in opposition, they asked whether all the sixteen subjects were compulsory. Time was found, they said, for preparation for annual entertainments, sports, cadet drill, shooting, technical classes, etc.: were these of more importance than religious instruction? Other teachers throughout the Dominion found time for religious instruction. To say that the discipline would suffer was a rash statement, and mere assumption. History and experience both proved that morality without a religious basis was a house without foundation. All the teachers in the school were not opposed to religious instruction. It was doubtful if any of them were; they only wanted to save time. The 'comparisons' named already existed in the churches, and the classes would tend to minimise such comparisons. The plan of giving lessons before or after school hours had been widely tried, and in all cases had proved a failure. Had the present system of education 'worked exceedingly well'? Admittedly not.

In response to the ministers' circular, 174 parents voted for religious instruction, 46 voted against it, and 24 did not return the voting papers.

On Monday evening a deputation of ministers reported to the School Committee the result of the voting, and asked for half an hour from 11.30 a.m. on Thursdays or Fridays. After a short discussion the committee decided to hold a special meeting on July 27 to give the head-master an opportunity to express his views on the matter.

There is to be opened in the Art Gallery on August 11, for a season of twelve nights, a spectacular display entitled a 'Floral Carnival.' Living characters costumed in correct accordance with the festival will be in evidence in large numbers, whilst a number of stalls representing various selected floral specimens will have a corps of assistants with costumes to correspond. The 'display' or entertainment portion is designed to afford a moving picture exceedingly pretty and pleasing, introduced into which are to be dances, a card tournament of animated subjects, and other entertaining items of a decidedly novel nature. The rehearsals are being well attended, and much enthusiasm is being shown in preparation for the event. The veteran entertainer and organiser, Mr. W. Densem, is director, under a strong working committee. The children are being carefully coached by Mr. Wauchop, and give great promise of perfection in their (not the least important) part of the display. The proceeds of the carnival are to go towards reducing the liabilities on St. Mary's parish, and there is every indication of a successful season.

### Timaru

(From our own correspondent.)

The Children of Mary held a most enjoyable social in the Girls' School on Wednesday last. Progressive euchre occupied the first part of the evening, the prizes going to Miss Ryan and Mr. Murphy. A well-catered supper was then served. Mr. Fitzgerald thanked the ladies on behalf of the visitors, and Mr.

M. Mahoney responded. Miss K. McGrath gave an enjoyable rendition of 'The lost chord.' The gathering, about one hundred being present, was an undoubted success, and reflects the greatest credit on the management, particularly the working secretary, Miss M. Mara.

The ladies of St. Anne's Guild are going to hold a sale of work in the Girls' School, commencing on Wednesday next, at 7 p.m.

The choir at Fairlie is a very good one for a country church, and is well looked after by the organist, Professor Clarke. Yesterday they rendered Turton's Mass.

### Greymouth

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

July 17.

The annual social of the Children of Mary took place in St. Patrick's Schoolroom last Tuesday evening, when there was a large attendance of members and their friends. Various games, etc., were indulged in during the evening. An excellent supper was prepared by the committee, songs were given by Very Rev. Dean Carew and Misses Burke, Shanahan, and Boyle, and recitations by Rev. Father Taylor and Mr. E. Casey, whilst Mr. C. Carmine danced an Irish jig.

Constable Mahoney, who left Greymouth for Wellington last week, was, prior to his departure, presented by his comrades in the police force with a silver-mounted umbrella; also a handsome dressing-case for Mrs. Mahoney. Sergeant Egan, in making the presentation, spoke in flattering terms of the manner in which Constable Mahoney had performed his duties during his stay in Greymouth, and said it was clear that a policeman's success was greatly due to a good wife's influence, as had proved to be the case with Mr. Mahoney, who was most fortunate in that respect. Constable Mahoney replied on behalf of himself and his wife, and said the people of Greymouth had shown themselves to be very kind-hearted, and though always endeavoring to do his duty fearlessly, he had striven to give satisfaction to his superior officers, and was pleased to hear that they were satisfied. He could always look back to the time he spent in Greymouth with pleasure.

A very pleasing ceremony took place in St. Columba Club rooms last Monday evening, when the members assembled to bid farewell to Mr. Sydney McLisky, prior to his departure for Hastings. Mr. W. H. Duffy (vice-president), in making the presentation, which consisted of a set of razors in case, suitably inscribed, referred to the good work, especially at the building of the club rooms, done by Mr. McLisky, and concluded by wishing him every success in his new home. The recipient suitably responded, thanking the club members for the handsome gift, which would always remind him of the happy evenings spent in the club rooms. Mr. McLisky was also the recipient of a gold-mounted watch guard from the Greymouth Volunteers, of which he was an enthusiastic member for a number of years. He was also presented with a pair of field-glasses by some of his friends. Mr. McLisky left last Monday evening, and a large number of club members and friends assembled to bid him farewell.

There was a large attendance of the public at Trinity Hall last Monday evening on the occasion of the annual debate between Trinity Club and St. Columba Catholic Club. His Worship the Mayor of Greymouth (Mr. T. E. Coates) presided, and Mr. A. A. Adams, M.A. (head-master of the Greymouth public school), and Mr. A. P. Harper, LL.B., acted as judges. The subject for discussion was, 'Is the nationalisation of industries desirable?' The St. Columba Club took the negative side, and was represented by Messrs. E. Casey (leader), C. Brebner, A. O'Donoghue, and T. Heffernan; whilst the Trinity representatives were Messrs. L. De Berry (leader), J. Petrie, R. V. Thompson, and R. Smithers. The judges, in giving their unanimous decision in favor of the St. Columba Club, congratulated the speakers on both sides on the high standard of the debate, which showed careful preparation on both sides, and trusted that both clubs would meet again. At the conclusion of the debate the representatives of both clubs adjourned to the vicarage at the kind invitation of Rev. Archdeacon York, who had an excellent supper prepared for them. Before retiring, Mr. Casey proposed a hearty vote of thanks to the Archdeacon, which was carried by acclamation.

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